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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Smallpox in Little Rock, Ark.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., *January 20, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the presence of smallpox in the city of Little Rock, this State. To the present time 17 cases have been reported with 1 death. The disease also exists in several localities in this (Pulaski) county outside the city of Little Rock.

Respectfully,

L. P. GIBSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Two cases of smallpox in Portland, Me., imported.

PORTLAND, ME., *January 22, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that 2 cases of smallpox were found in this city by the board of health on the 17th instant, and that both were at once transferred to the city pesthouse.

There was no connection between the two. One had arrived within two days from Stockbridge, Mass., the other had just come from Boston. All precautions were taken with regard to both houses and all their inmates.

Respectfully,

S. D. BROOKS,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox in Marshfield, Oreg.

MARSHFIELD, OREG., *January, 1902.*

SIR: The smallpox epidemic which appeared at this place about December 1, 1901, is of a mild type. Not until an undoubted case manifested itself was the public aroused to the real nature of the disease. Some of the local physicians refused to accept the diagnosis of smallpox and their attitude in conjunction with the mildness of the disease allayed the fears of many so that every opportunity was given it to spread. In one respect this circumstance has been of value in that it allowed a chance to study the disease in its relation to vaccination and nonvaccination. It is notable that those who showed signs of recent and successful vaccination were, as a rule, exempt, and there are instances where a single member of a family has been rendered immune by timely vaccination. It has attacked all ages, but the majority of the cases have been among children, due to the fact that the city authorities took no steps to control the epidemic, and school children were permitted to mingle freely with the eruptions on their bodies.

The fatal case was that of a woman, 45 years of age, who suffered with a feeble constitution prior to the attack of smallpox; her case was complicated with pneumonia, which was the immediate cause of her death. There has been another fatal case, outside of the city limits, traceable to this epidemic, and it appears by studying the epidemic as a whole that it is gaining in malignancy. The amount and character of the eruption has been variable, and in not a few only a spot here and there could be found. In the majority of the cases secondary fever has been absent, but in others it has been marked by considerable severity.

The history of one family is of special value in that it not only shows the real nature of the disease where doubt might exist, but also the protean character of the epidemic. Three children of the family, ages 11 to 14, were exposed and became sick at the end of the usual period of incubation. All of the initial symptoms of smallpox were well marked; the papules and vesicles were small but characteristic and numerous; pustulation was slight, with a small amount of secondary fever. Fourth child came home while the others were in the vesicular stage, was immediately vaccinated, and did not contract the disease. Father of the children left home on the sixth day of their illness to work in the country. Three days thereafter he was taken very sick with headache, backache, and high fever. The next day a few papules appeared over his body, which underwent slight vesiculation and then dried up. The mother of the children, who was with them all of the time, was taken down during their scaling period with a high fever and a premature birth of a child. This was followed by the characteristic papular eruption, umbilicated vesicles, secondary fever (high), and pustulation. The entire body was covered with discrete pustules. All of the cases made a favorable recovery.

Respectfully,

E. MINGUS, *Health Officer.*

Smallpox at Hoquiam and Aberdeen, Wash., and vicinity.

HOQUIAM, WASH., *January 18, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor of reporting that there is now prevailing at this port and at the port of Aberdeen, Wash., 4 miles distant from this station, a disease which the physicians of both places diagnose as a mild form of smallpox. The initial symptom of most of the cases is ushered in with a chill, followed with a temperature varying from 102° F. to 105° F., patient complaining of headache and severe pain in back. The eruption or efflorescence makes its appearance on the fourth or fifth day, pustules begin to form in three to five days from the time the eruption is first noticed, becoming umbilicated in most of the cases and confluent in 3 or 4 of the most serious cases.

The epidemic is prevalent in the larger cities of Puget Sound as well as the smaller cities and towns of the Grays Harbor country. There has been no fatal case reported from any locality where the disease is prevailing. The health authorities of the city of Hoquiam are observing the most vigilant and vigorous measures to stamp out the malady. The greatest embarrassment the health authorities have to encounter is to convince the public of the danger, and the absolute necessity of using every precaution to prevent its spread. We have ordered the closing of our public schools, churches, Sabbath schools, theaters, public dancing halls, all fraternal and benevolent orders, as well as prohibiting the